

Message Text

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21

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TAGS: UNESCO, EAD

SUBJECT: UNESCO'S SPECIAL COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION OF IN-DEPTH REPORT ON TOPIC (I) (A) DOCUMENT 99 EX/SP/RAP/3, PROGRAMS FOR LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

1. SPECIAL COMMITTEE APRIL 22 CONSIDERED IN-DEPTH REPORT PREPARED AND PRESENTED BY LOUIS G. SLEEPER, US PERMDEL DEVELOPMENT ATTACHE ON UNESCO'S EXPERIENCES WITH PROGRAMS FOR LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

2. NINE BOARD MEMBERS HELD LENGTHY AND HIGH QUALITY SUBSTANTIVE DEBATE ADDRESSING POINTS RAISED IN REPORT AND OFFERING OTHERS, SUCH AS FOCUSING ON OBSTACLES AND ABSORPTIVE CAPACITY OF LEAST DEVELOPED (BELGIUM); NEED TO GIVE LARGER ROLE TO UNESCO'S REGIONAL OFFICES (FRANCE); NEED FOR SPECIAL ATTENTION TO PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO THESE COUNTRY- (FRG); NEED FOR NEW AND MORE INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS (AUSTRALIA); NEED TO STRESS INITIATIVE AND TO SEEK GREATER SELF RELIANCE OF LEAST DEVELOPED (INDIA); IMPORTANCE OF BUILDING ON ENDOGENOUS CAPACITY (TOGO); AND IMPORTANCE OF FLEXIBILITY IN APPROACHES AND ADMINISTRATION (PHILIPPINES).

3. ALL BUT TWO SPEAKERS WERE LAUDATORY OF QUALITY OF UNCLASSIFIED

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REPORT, FEELING THAT THIS WAS A MODEL OF AN IN-DEPTH

STUDY. SPEAKERS FELT THAT FACTS WERE WELL DOCUMENTED, ANALYSIS WAS SOLID, AND CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS WERE WELL FOUNDED. EXCEPTIONS TO PRAISE WERE BY CHINA AND USSR. CHINA GAVE LOW KEY SHORT STATEMENT RECOGNIZING NEED TO GIVE MORE HELP TO THE NEEDIEST NATIONS, BUT CAUTIONED AGAINST SUPERPOWERS WHICH ATTEMPT TO DIVIDE THE THIRD WORLD. USSR GAVE LOW KEY FAINT PRAISE STATEMENT FEELING REPORT ILLUSTRATED SOME IMPORTANT POINTS BUT REGRETTED THAT REPORT DID NOT FOCUS ON UNESCO'S INTELLECTUAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

4. AFTER STIMULATING DEBATE BY BOARD MEMBERS, FOBES, DDG OFFERED SECRETARIAT'S COMMENTS. SAID SECRETARIAT LIKED THE QUALITY OF REPORT AND HIGH LEVEL OF DISCUSSIONS ENGENDERED, AND RECOGNIZED IMPORTANCE OF ADDRESSING NEEDS OF LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. HE RECOGNIZED THAT IMPROVEMENTS COULD AND SHOULD BE MADE IN FUTURE, HOWEVER WAS GENERALLY DEFENSIVE ABOUT UNESCO'S ROLE AND PERFORMANCE, PUTTING MOST OF BLAME ON ANY SHORTCOMINGS TO EVENTS BEYOND UNESCO'S CONTROL. AFTER THESE GENERAL STATEMENTS FOBES WENT ON TO NITPICK SPECIFIC POINTS MADE OR INTERPRETATIONS DRAWN IN SOME 12 SPECIFIC PARAGRAPHS OF REPORT.

5. FOLLOWING THE PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF SLEEPER'S REPORT, KI-ZERBO (UPPER VOLTA) PRESENTED IMPRESSIVE SHORT PAPER HE HAD WRITTEN WHICH DISCUSSED VARIOUS OBSTACLES FACING THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, AND LAID OUT THE FOLLOWING SUGGESTED PRINCIPLES FOR FUTURE ACTION. (A) STRESS SELF-RELIANCE, NOT SELF-SUFFICIENCY, BUT THE NEED FOR THESE COUNTRIES TO MAKE THEIR OWN CHOICES; (B) EDUCATION, IN BROAD DEFINITION OF TERM, SHOULD SERVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND VICE VERSA; (C) EDUCATION SHOULD ALSO SERVE SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, AND VICE VERSA; (D) STRUCTURAL AND QUALITATIVE CHANGES SHOULD ACCOMPANY ECONOMIC GROWTH; (E) FOCUS ATTENTION ON BOTTLENECKS; (F) FOCUS ATTENTION ON INTEGRATED SOLUTIONS, NOT ISOLATED PROJECTS; (G) ONLY DEMOCRATIC OPTIONS ARE

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VIABLE; AND (H) REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL ACTIONS ARE FUNDAMENTAL.
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